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DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

to which is appended the Report of the  
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. J.A. Thompson, M.Inst.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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DR. G.B. HOPKINS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

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DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members of the Public Health Committee :-

Mr. D. Sneezum, Chairman.

Mr. C.E. Bowman.

Mr. A.L. Fox.

Mr. A.R. Bullen.

Mrs. M.K. Hartley.

Mr. R. Burton.

Mr. F.G. Smith.

Mr. A.C. Dye.

Mr. W.A. Wright.

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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

Also holds the appointments of :-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer of Health to Downham Rural District Council.

Medical Officer of Health to Marshland Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

J.A. Thompson, M.Inst.H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Local Health Office,  
Downham Market.

September, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Downham Market Urban  
District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year was a notable one for your district in that the first part of a major sewerage scheme was brought to completion; the Council can claim much credit for pressing the need for this major improvement sufficiently soon after the War to escape the restrictions on credit which are preventing similar schemes in many parts of the country.

The attractive housing estate so conveniently sited near the centre of the town was substantially completed and occupied and will be a factor in maintaining the health of the community in the coming years, as also will be the action taken to close several properties unfit for human habitation. Slum clearance provokes opposition at the time but is steadily gaining momentum and clearly enjoys public support. The benefits which will accrue to the public health are real though not easily accounted, and they will have the effect of reducing expenditure upon the National Health Service.

You will be pleased to see that the Registrar General has this year commenced a system of adjusting death rates to take into account old persons' institutions and hospitals, and your district must be one of the best examples of the improvement which this innovation represents; your standardised death rate now compares favourably with the county and indeed all rural districts, being 9.7 per 1,000 of population. It is at last a representative figure of a distortion.

I wish to thank you for your support and encouragement during the year and to record my appreciation of the pleasant co-operation which I have enjoyed at all times from your officers.

G.B. HOPKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1956

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	1,003.
Population 1931...	...	...	...	...	2,465.
Population 1956 (Estimated)...	...	...	...	...	2,610.
Population 1952 (Census)	...	...	...	...	2,741.
Number of Separate dwellings occupied 1956					898.
+Rateable Value 1956 -(Nov. 1956)	...	...	...	...	£42,753.
+Product of Penny Rate 1956 -(31st Mar. 1957)					£171.13.8d.

+ Note These figures are increased from the previous year by the new Rateable Values made under the Rating & Valuation Acts.

LIVE BIRTHS. 21. 8.5 per 1000 of population  
(Comparability factor already applied is 1.05).

	Total	Male	Female	Downham Urban	England & Wales	Administra- tive County
Legitimate	21	11	8	8.5	15.7	15.31
Illegitimate	-	-	2			

STILL BIRTHS. Nil. 23.0 21.54

DEATHS. Infants under 1 year Nil.  
Infants under 4 weeks Nil.

DEATHS ALL CAUSES. Rate 9.7 per 1000 of population  
(Comparability factor already applied applied is 0.41).

	Total	Male	Female	Downham Urban	England & Wales	Administra- tive County
	62	34	28	9.7	11.7	12.07

Deaths from Puerperal Causes - NIL.

Deaths from :-

Cancer (all ages)	6
Measles do	Nil.
Whooping Cough	Nil.
Diarrhoea (under 2yrs)	Nil.

## SECTION A.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres) . . . . . 1003.  
Population (estimated mid-year 1956) . . . . . 2610.

DEATHS. 62 deaths were assigned to the district by the Registrar General, yielding a Standardised Rate of 9.7.

BIRTHS. 21 births were assigned to the district, a decrease of 11 on the previous year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths in the District.

INFANT MORTALITY. No child under 1 year of age died in the district during 1956.

STILL BIRTHS. No still births were notified.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### 1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales' Road,  
Norwich - Clerk: R.J. Cobb, Esq.

#### 2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer,  
Dr. J.B. Ewen, M.D., D.P.H.,  
"Croft-Holme", 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

#### 3. (a) GENERAL.

Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich.  
West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.  
Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.  
St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (For chronic sick).  
The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

#### (b) MATERNITY.

West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).  
Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

#### (c) INFECTIONS.

County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.  
Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

#### (d) SANATORIA.

Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.  
Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

#### (e) MENTAL.

St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.  
Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.  
Heckingham Sanatorium, Norwich.  
Little Plumstead, Norwich.



4. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) DISTRICT NURSE :-

Nurse Fox, 2, London Road, Downham Market.

(b) Maternity beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments:- Stow Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

5. AMBULANCE & HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee. It is worked on an Agency basis by the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John and W.V.S.

The Downham Urban Area is served by the Downham Market Ambulance.

Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by the East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Local Health Office.

6. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOT.

Downham Market - Mrs. I.M. Burbeck, "Court House".

7. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Downham Market Infant Welfare centre is held at the Health Office, Howdale Road.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health is in attendance at the session which is held from 2 - 4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

I would again like to register my warm appreciation of the voluntary help given at each session by the ladies of the local branch of the British Red Cross.

School Dental Clinic.

The School Dental Officer attends every Thursday and Friday at the Local Health Office.

Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme is working smoothly and judging by results, the efforts of the five occasional Helps are greatly appreciated. There are now 67 occasional Home Helps for Downham Rural, Downham Urban and Marshland Rural.

8. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males.

Females and Children.

Tuesday & Fridays. Tuesday and Wednesdays.  
6 p.m. 3 p.m.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc. which has to be carried out by this department are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

10. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory,  
Isolation Hospital,  
Bowthorpe Road,  
Norwich.

under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst:-

Mr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.,  
Clarence House,  
6, Clarence Road,  
Norwich.

SECTION C.

PREVALANCE OF CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX. Nil.

SCARLET FEVER. Nil.

DIPHTHERIA. Nil.

The following table gives the numbers of children either primarily immunised by a full course of injections, or stimulated to maximum immunity by booster doses, during the last five years :-

<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
44	28	51	19	45



PNEUMONIA. 6 cases were notified.

WHOOPIING COUGH. 13 cases were notified.

MEASLES. 3 cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS. Two new cases (Pulmonary) were notified and there was one death.

SECTION D.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1956.

TABLE NO.1.

Causes of Death

Male Female Total

Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ...	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, breast ...	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	-	1
Diabetes ... ..	2	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6	11
Coronary disease, angina ...	6	1	7
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart diseases ... ..	5	1	9
Other Circulatory diseases ...	2	1	3
Influenza ... ..	-	3	3
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	-	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	-	1	1

All causes: 31 28 62

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN.

TABLE NO. 2.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR - 1956

No child under the age of one year died during the year.



MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
1956

OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

TABLE NO. 4.

Disease.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Measles.							3						3
Whooping Cough.							1	5			5	2	13
Pneumonia.	1	1		2		1	1						6
Totals:	1	1		2		1	5	5			5	2	22

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

TABLE NO. 5.

Notification in Age Groups 1956

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Total
Measles.			1			2							3
Whooping Cough.		1		1	1	8	1		1				13
Pneumonia.											1	5	6
Totals:		1	1	1	1	10	1		1		1	5	22

# REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit particulars of the work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

1. Inspections during the Year.

(a)	Number of houses inspected for defects.	10
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose.	29
(c)	Number of houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation.	15
(d)	No. of Closing Orders served.	11

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice. L

(a) Remedy of Defects after Service of Formal Notice.

(i)	Housing Act, 1936.	Nil.
(ii)	Public Health Act, 1936.	Nil.

3. Number of New Houses built or under Construction.

(a)	Houses completed by the Authority.	38
(b)	Houses completed by County Council for Schools.	3
(c)	Houses completed by Private Enterprise.	2
(d)	Houses under construction by Local Authority.	Nil.
(e)	Houses under construction by Private Enterprise.	5
(f)	Total houses owned by Local Authority.	202

4. Summary of Other Visits and Inspections.

Council Houses.	68
Bakehouses.	1
Slaughterhouses.	182
Butchers Shops.	13
Market & Food Stores.	4
Food Preparation Rooms.	3
Ice-cream.	L
Shops.	8
Samples.	1
Factories (Mech. Power).	-
" (No Mech. Power).	2
Public Conveniences.	7
Tents, Vans & Sheds.	6
Drainage - New & Old.	99
" - Length of drain tested.	92



Streams & Watercourses.	1
Refuse Collection & Disposal.	46
Rodent Control.	9
Miscellaneous.	23
Sewage Works.	55
In connection with Plans & Buildings.	61
Council House Building - Firs.Estate.	11
" " - Porter Street.	176

## 5. Meat Inspection & Slaughterhouses.

There are 4 licensed slaughterhouses which were granted licences in 1955 until 31st July, 1959.

The following were inspected in the slaughterhouses :-

Cattle	95
Calves	4
Sheep and lambs	236
Pigs	675

The following were condemned and disposed of as unfit for human food.

11 Beasts' Livers.  
1 Whole pig and all offals.  
2 Pigs' heads.

A total weight of approximately 282 lbs.

## 6. Food Inspection.

No adulteration of any foodstuff was reported during the year. 48 tins and packages of various foodstuff weighing approximately 43 lbs. and other foods weighing 115 lbs. were surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption.

## 7. Milk and Dairies.

There are three distributors of milk in the Urban District. None of them produces milk in the Urban area.

## 8. Movable Dwellings.

There are four licensed caravans.

9. Public Cleansing.

- (a) Scavenging. The whole of the scavenging of both County and District Roads is undertaken by the District Council's employees.
- (b) Refuse Collection. House refuse is collected once weekly throughout the District. A number of properties situated just outside the District in the Broomhill and Crow Hall areas are also served. Disposal of refuse is by means of tipping on land at the sewage works.

10. Salvage.

During the year waste paper collected and salvaged and sold amounted to 58 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrts. The amount of money received was £426.4.5d.

11. Destruction of Rats and Mice.

Poisoning was carried out at the Refuse Tip, Sewage Works and on the sewers and premises in the town.

12. Water Supply.

The Water Supply in the District is from mains of the Wisbech & District Water Board. The supply comes from deep wells in the chalk at Marham. Fifty four new connections were made to the Board's mains in the Area during the year.

13. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Work on the Sewerage Scheme (Part I) estimated to cost some £80,000 and commenced in November, 1954 continued during the year. The scheme was inspected by a Ministry of Housing & Local Government Inspector on the 16th August, 1956.

The Consulting Engineers Messrs. J.D. & D.M. Watson certified the Sewerage Works as substantially completed on 30.6.56 and the Disposal Works as substantially completed on 30.9.56.

Sewage flow was admitted to the new disposal works on the 31st October, 1956.

Final completion had not been certified at the end of the year.



14. Council Housing - Porter Street Site.

The layout works commenced on this site in October, 1955 continued during the year and the building of 38 "Wates" type houses was commenced early in the year and were completed by the end of October, 1956.

15. Plans.

During the year 59 applications for Development under the Town & Country Planning Act received the consideration of the Committee.

16. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Part 1 of the Act - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	<u>Number of</u>			
	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Occupiers Notices	Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	27	2	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	31	2	Nil	Nil

J.A. THOMPSON,

Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

